

PVRC July 97 Newsletter

From [\[email protected\]](mailto:) Thu Jul 3 09:57:58 1997
Date: Wed, 2 Jul 1997 23:04:36 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Dick Wilder (K3DI)"
To: [\[email protected\]](mailto:), [\[email protected\]](mailto:), [\[email protected\]](mailto:),
[\[email protected\]](mailto:)
Cc: [\[email protected\]](mailto:)
Subject: PVRC July 97 Newsletter

PVRC NEWSLETTER
JULY 1997

Note: The paper edition via US mail will
be delayed due to the holiday vacation
at the printer.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT KE3Q	RICH BOYD	(301) 464-8014	
VICE PRES K3MM	TYLER STEWART	(301) 414-5444	
SECRETARY N3OC	BRIAN McGINNESS	(301) 652-6768	
TREASURER N3KTV	JIM HORTON	(301) 258-9731	
HISTORIAN K3SA	STEVE AFFENS	(301) 774-0558	

PVRC Charter Members:

W3GRF (SK), W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ (SK), W4LUE, W7YS,
VP2VI (W0DX), N0FFZ (SK).

PacketCluster Contest/DX System (MHz):
K3NA Frederick MD 145.630
W3LPL Glenwood MD 145.590 441.250
KE3Q Bowie MD 145.570 445.375
N3RR Rockville MD 145.510 441.325
N4OHE Mt. Weather VA 145.710 440.925
N4SR Woodbridge VA 145.630 *
WR3L Baltimore MD 145.610 440.950
K4FJ Mt. Vernon VA 145.770 *
K3MQH S Mountain PA 145.630

The system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network except
for nodes marked with "*" are funded & operated by the Rappahannock DX
Packetcluster Group.

PVRC on Internet. PVRC web site: <http://www.pvrc.org> courtesy of K3SA
PVRC/NC web site: <http://www.pagesz.net/~pvrc> courtesy of N4AF
PVRC reflector: [\[email protected\]](mailto:) to join. [\[email protected\]](mailto:) to post.

Dues are by donation. The mandatory \$10 dues have been discontinued. So
please send your donation - hopefully at least \$10 - to Jim Horton, N3KTV,
8527 Calypso Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1522. Make checks payable to
PVRC. Thank you.

Newsletter Editor: Dick Wilder, K3DI, 913 Shore Acres Rd, Arnold, MD
21012-1724. The communication ports are: (410) 757-6706, FAX/modem
757-6720, [\[email protected\]](mailto:), and the DXcluster. The deadline for articles
is Monday, two weeks before the central meeting. The deadline during the

summer is ABOUT the first of the month.

The Central Meeting is always the second Monday except during the summer. During June, July, and August, an alternative to the central meeting are the various summer activities. The NW Region meets through the summer. Also, the Newsletter does not go on vacation.

PVRC Summer Meeting Calendar:

Tue	Jul 15	NW meeting, Legends Restr, Frederick MD at 8:00 PM
Sat	Jul 19	Open house at W4MYA. See info next page.
Sat	Aug 16	Annual "Fowlfest" at W3YOZ waterfront, West River, South of Annapolis., West River, MD. Joint PVRC/NCDXC meeting.
Tue	Aug 19	NW meeting, Legends Restr, Frederick MD at 8:00 PM
?	Sep ?	PVRC meeting at FAR Hamfest in Gaithersburg.
Mon	Sep 8	First central meeting of the fall.
Sat	Sep 20	Open house at Dave's, WR3L, Essex. MD. New hamshack with 10 mile view across water to NE. Needs operators!

PVRC SILENT KEY:

Charles N. Tidd (Nick), K4EBY, Woodbridge, VA became a silent key on 6 February 1996. He died of complications from chemotherapy. He was most active on 2 meters operating a repeater at his home in Dale City. Confirmation from his brother, Leon at [\[email protected\]](mailto:).

OPEN HOUSE AT W4MYA ON SATURDAY, 19 JULY 1997

I hope we can have a big, big turnout at W4MYA starting at about noon. Bob Morris' station is the biggest multi-multi in Virginia, which makes it one of the biggest in W4 (another one being N4ZC in Charlotte, NC). This event could be very helpful on "PVRC unity," an on-going challenge, if we can get a good turnout from "up north" as well as "down south." de KE3Q

The address is 5303 St Paul's Church Rd, Goochland, VA. Talk in will be on the 145.430 machine and 146.58 simplex. Phone number is 804-457-9011. Vicky has graciously agreed to feed the folks lunch. Hot Dogs, hamburgers, chicken, potato salad etc. There will be beer, soft drinks, water and munchies available. Serving will be +/- 1PM. Hoping to have a tent or some other type of shelter up in case it rains. I don't have enough room for the 60+ folks that I expect in the house! Vicky and I are looking forward to a good afternoon! cu then, MYA

Directions from the North: I-95 South to I-295 West toward I-64 West. Get on I-64 West to the 168 mile marker. This is the Oilville Exit. (There is a rest area just before this exit, if you have to go, do it, you are still 1/2 hour away). There is only one exit, At the top of the hill turn left (takes you back over I-64 and is called Oilville Rd.). Oilville Rd "T"'s at Rt 250. Turn right on Rt 250. and go to the first hard surface road you come to on the left which is Fairgrounds Rd, (Signs say Goochland Courthouse) Take a left on Fairgrounds Rd. It will "T" with RT 522. Take a left on RT 522. Rt 522 will "T" into Rt 6. Take a right on Rt 6. Go approx 10 miles which will bring you to the intersection of Rt 6 and Rt 45. Take a left on Rt 45. Go 2 miles on Rt 45 till you come to Rt 625. Turn Left onto Rt 625 and go 3/10 of a mile I am on the right. Will try to have some signs up at least at Rt 6, Rt 625 and my driveway.

Directions from the South. I normally come up Rt 29 toward Danville, get on Rt 58, then Rt 58 to Rt 360 East to Keysville. Take Rt 15 North out of Keysville to Rt 45 North out of Farmville. Stay on Rt 45 thru Cartersville. When you cross the James river go 4 miles. Rt 625 is on the right. Go 3/10 mile to my driveway.

Directions from the West. On I-64 go to the Hadensville, VA exit. There is only one exit. Take a right onto Rt 623. This will "T" into Rt 250. Turn right and then left onto Rt. 623. Rt 623 will "Y" into Rt 606. Follow Rt 606 (Fife Rd) until it "T"s with Rt 6. Turn right on Rt 6 then Left on Rt 45. Go two miles to Rt 625. Turn left onto Rt 625. 3/10 mile on right will be my driveway.

MEETING MINUTES AND ACTIVITY AT W3LPL JUNE 21ST by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

Attendees were: KE3Q, K3SC, N3MIL, WB3ANE, W3AZD, W8ZA, K3TZV, KA3TGY, K4EC, WB4FDT, WB2BZR, K1DQV, WF3J, W3LPL, WR3Z, W3DAD, K3MQH, W2YC, N2CQ, W3AZ, W3KN, W3MR, K8OQL, K2UOP, K3ZO, N3OC, W3GHR, W3CP, NE3H, K2YWE, N3GB, N3OPM, K3SX (EX-K3SME), K3DI, W9LT, K3MM, KB8UUE, N3AZN, W3ICM, WB3AVN, K3HH, K3SO, W3GG, WI2T, W3NF, W3EMH, K3YDT, N3AHA, W3PP, KE3ZR, K3ZB, N3AM, WA0QII, NV3V, K4ZW, K3SW, K3GEG, W3DTN, N3RR, W3IP, K3GMH, K3IXD, N3NT, W3HVQ, N3KTV, KT4W, KC3D, W2EOS, K3ANS, WF3T, N3RQV, KO7V, N1KC, W3TMZ, K7SV, K3TM, W3EKT, W3YOZ, WR3L, KA4RRU, NJ4F, K1HTV, W6HZW, VE3WIE, VE3RM, K5OF, WB2DNE, N3HSA, K3LP, WV3B, KC3VO, K4FJ, K3RA, AI3M, N5OKR and Chrissie, W3UR, N3OSH (W3UR xyl), and Kyle (W3UR Jr).

Many others were there including a number of FRCers who for some reason didn't sign the PVRC attendance sheet (hi). I think they set up a tent and held their meeting there. Also, WV3B brought his Glenwood Tigers (swimming pool) tent and NCDXA met there. Also present were ZL1AS, S92AT and a JA0 (I forgot the suffix, sri, something like DAI or DAE).

The club gavel won by PVRC for 1996 unlimited SS was awarded to K3MM, who had the highest (combined phone and CW) single op score. The club gavel from the 1996 (December) ARRL 160 contest was awarded to K4SO (ex-KX3Q) for the top single op score in that one. PVRC won the medium club category. The only club above us was FRC, the only club in the unlimited category (over 50 logs). We've now come in second in two single band contests recently (ARRL 160 and ARRL 10) and could easily have won both if we'd made a special push, which we didn't. Our activity level in those was "natural," just the guys who got on and sent in logs! If we beat the drums for activity we should be able to win these! (We don't want to lose our focus on SS both modes, CQWW both modes, and ARRL DX test both modes though! -- and we should be able to win the January VHF contest, the only VHF contest of the big three anyway that has club competition!)

K2WK of FRC has been having antenna difficulties with deep pocket neighbors and has exhausted his war chest, according to FRC's newsletter editor, who put the situation to us. On a motion by N3KTV, PVRC voted to donate \$100 to help with the legal fight.

Four were voted into PVRC membership: W3CQH, K3SW, K4GMH, and K2UOP. Welcome, all! W3CQH lived across the street from me in Silver Spring when I was just getting started and is active in the VHF/UHF contests. K2UOP/8 has a nice mountaintop QTH in West Virginia, where he's "retired" and is very effective in the VHF/UHF contests too. He is starting to get active in HF contesting as well. K3SW is a longtime FRCer who relocated to

Virginia some years back, but is still within (barely) the 175-mile radius allowed by contest sponsors, and has kept his connection to FRC. We welcome him as a "dual member" and hope he will consider PVRC for some of his scores! We now have a number of dual members and don't want to twist arms or coerce -- we welcome you -- but we don't mind cajoling and encouraging (and maybe wheedling sometimes, hi). K4GMH is a friend of K7SV and NJ4F, the Rappahannock region boys. Keep 'em comin', guys!

The annual W3LPL open house continues to be a popular event. The two VE3 ops listed in the attendance made the trip from Ontario just for the get together. The pit barbecue place near Frank's set up their tent again for us. W3EKT was there with his rover station, a camper with antennas for 50/144/220/440/1296 MHz that can be set up in 15 minutes. W3EKT and K3IXD did a good job in the recent contest. KA3EJJ, metal worker and high tech metalworking machine repairman extraordinaire, was there demo-ing his "rocket launcher" mast with dual rotator top (two Yagis independently rotatable). Contact KA3EJJ if you want one. After hearing me give the inside tour of Frank's station a few times, Amy, N3MIL, was able to conduct it herself, for K3ANS and others. Phyllis Donovan's BMW sure looked nice! And, the landscape plantings, flower beds and such, keep getting better established...one very junior op was seen picking and eating strawberries. A hearty thank you to Frank and Phyllis for having us in!

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM MARK KILLMON, K4SO

At the recent W3LPL open house, I was awarded the club gavel for the 1996 ARRL 160 meter contest. Due to other commitments, I was unable to attend and I want to extend my thanks to the club for the chance to receive this award. Without the efforts of so many of the club members in operating the contest, and especially the multi-op win by W3UR and KE3Q and single op scores by K4ZW and K3MM, there would have been no gavel for me to receive. When Rich first mentioned the club tradition of awarding the gavel to the top single-op in the club that had not previously received one, I was unaware of it, as perhaps others of you may be. It has special significance since it really recognizes the collective success of the club. In my case, as a non-CW contesteer, this contest represented a personal goal realized, by making more CW QSOs than in any previous contest. Added to that, my new 160M homebrew amp held together for the duration, I worked all states, and got a chance to try out my new call. To have been further rewarded for a score that wasn't even in the top-10 was a real treat. As responsibilities keep many of us from participating fully in contests, it is still possible to contribute to the club's successes and take satisfaction in that. As the lucky recipient of your efforts, I hope to continue to throw in a few points whenever I can toward further club victories! Thanks again, PVRC.

EASTERN MEETING MINUTES JUNE 22 by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

The Eastern Regional PVRC meeting was held at 3 PM on June 22nd at KE3Q. Attending were KE3Q, N3MIL, K1HTV, K3XZ, and W3KN. We'll hold another meeting in connection with Field Day. Had a good time talking about the KE3Q packet cluster node, and talking contest stations and antennas.

BWI REGIONAL JUNE MEETINGS by Howard Leake, .

The four Wednesday morning meetings this month of June had the following

in attendance for coffee/breakfast: W2EOS, K2YWE, WA0QII, K3IXD, W3GHR, N3WKE, N3XPK, K3GEG, WB3AVN, N3KTV, and W6AXX. It seems that the month of June was devoted to the June VHF QSO Party and K3IXD joined the W3EKT Rovermobile for operation in FM19, FM29, FN10 and FN20 grids. They had 610 QSO's and 80 grids for 70,720 points claimed score. They used 50, 144, 222, 432 and 1296 mhz. Rusty, N3WKE; Mike, K3GEG; and Howard, W6AXX each operated from their home stations. Ike, W2EOS, Vaughn, W3GHR, and Jim, N3KTV operated from the K3MQH site on South Mountain. Rod, WA0QII operated from his Rovermobile in FM19, on those nose bleed frequencies.

PVRC/NC JUNE 5TH MINUTES by Pete Soper, KS4XG, [\[email protected\]](mailto:).

Site. The meeting was held at Houlihans restaurant in Raleigh from 6-8pm.

Attendees: K2AV Guy, N1RR Charlie, K3KO Brian, N3QYE Jim, K4HA Bob, N4AF Howie, K4MA Jim, N4CW Bert, KF4MOK Dave, NT4D Jay, KS4XG Pete, and W2CS Gary.

Membership: This was the third meeting of Dave, KF4MOK and he became a member by acclamation. Welcome Dave! This was the first meeting of Gary, W2CS. Since the meeting was quorate with 10 members in attendance a motion was made and voted on and Gary was inducted as a member. Welcome Gary! Chapter membership is now fifteen.

Bill Tippet, W4ZV sent his regrets as he was unable to attend the meeting as planned. Although Bill is outside the PVRC 175 mile circle he will be making the long trek to visit us in the future. We look forward to meeting him.

Program. Club business and announcements. Howie restated the fact that PVRC won the ARRL Sweepstakes gavel. He explained that the strategy that Rich Boyd put in place last year was certainly the formula for success. Everybody agreed that we should expect the Northern California (NCCC) to redouble their efforts for Sweepstakes this year. PVRC traditionally gives the Sweepstakes gavel to the highest scoring member who has not already been awarded one. The NY4A club call QSL cards are now in hand.

FOR SALE: N3QYE has a Teletec 150 watt six meter band linear amplifier for sale. He can be reached at [\[email protected\]](mailto:).

WPX/CW Scores. Most scores were submitted to Dave Blanchard. Here are additions. Howie noted that member AD4ZE was active from /C6A in the WPX/CW. Warren has been sailing around the caribbean with his wife for about six months. K2AV took part in WPX/CW with a score of around 80k points.

Member activities. K2AV demonstrated the ultimate optimism by getting TR and a GAP vertical the day of the WPX CW contest and attempting to use it for the test. He succeeded with TR but a manufacturing defect kept the GAP from performing. He still managed some good air time with his remaining antenna.

K4HA has been traveling a lot and says he's getting a lot of conflicts with the big contest weekends.

Bert N4CW sadly reports that his station is completely dismantled to make way for a major home improvement project.

K4MA described operating at AA4NC for WPX CW and how interesting the propagation was. He heard some Europeans on 10 meters but couldn't work them. Jim will be working Sweepstakes phone at the WP2Z Winwood station this year running high power. He and Will also have reservations for ARRL CW in '99 and are on a waiting list to try to get down for the '98 CW test.

Jim also shared some thoughts about Dayton including new contesting hall of famers (ON4UN, K1AR, AI6V and a PY now deceased). Fred Laun gave the dinner talk and also won the CW contest. N4CW remarked about listening to this kind of contest and the unbelievable skill of pulling a signal out of the noise. Jim remarked that Fred doesn't use CW filters during contests.

N3QYE explained how a bureaucratic snafu at the university was the cause of his email being cut off. Jim will be taking part in the upcoming VHF contest either from White Tale Mountain or from the W4ATC university station. The mountain site would have the advantage of allowing them to try out a 100 foot rope yagi for two meters.

K3KO described his satisfaction with exceeding his all time high score with his WPX CW effort. He slept four hours the first night and six hours the second. Brian reports that his amplifier woes were cured when the vendor finally agreed to replace the original Chinese (Pride) 3-500Z tubes with a different brand. He also cured a balky rotator by adding filament transformers to the normal motor supplies, restoring the 20% current loss he had been suffering. Rotation time dropped from 1:20 to :47 with this mod. He also described how he removed the 12 meter elements from his four element Gem Quad because of the degradation of 10 meter performance. Brian asked the group for advice about preserving/improving his radial field as he is about to add a concrete driveway. He wonders if the radial will work OK under the concrete and whether he should bond the radials to the steel mesh in the concrete. There were mixed opinions about this.

W2CS introduced himself saying he arrived here in North Carolina two days after hurricane Fran came through the area. After getting good natured ribbing about being another New Yorker invading the area, Gary described his station plans. He said after being used to monobanders on towers his current 80 meter wire dipole was quite a shock, but it seems to perform better here than the same wire antenna would in New York. Gary is investigating building restrictions in his area (10 acres in NE Chatham county) prior to starting on a tower project. In the meantime Gary has been coordinating the Eastern Area Network (EAN). Gary said that his wife Linda N2YL is an accomplished operator but preferred to shop that evening, figuring the PVRC/NC meeting would be a "guy thing."

KF4MOK is involved with local packet projects including one to provide a packet to Internet gateway. Dave said the sticking point involved dynamic IP assignments and K2AV provided some ideas about IP masquerading that may help with the implementation.

N4AF described a visit to the VOA site B at Greenville and how he was dumbstruck by the giant antenna array there, with 100 towers on 1000 acres. Howie said the towers can be seen while six miles from the site on rt 17. When asked if he was considering making a bid on the site he just smiled.

N1RR introduced himself. Charlie is visiting the area doing some business at NCSU and was invited to the chapter meeting by K4MA. His work is close to the school's club station and he had spotted the TH6 on the roof of the EE building. Charlie is a member of the Yankee Clipper Contesting Club and had some amusing stories about his own contesting exploits and some of the super stations up North. Of special interest was Charlie's description of how he got the better of an area competitor pretending to run QRP and claiming disproportionate scores.

Station upgrades. K4HA has a second tower for a 40 meter beam in the planning stage.

K2AV put up a 160 meter inverted L with a voltage feed network. He can current feed it on 160 but voltage feed the end on 80, 40 and 20 meters. He's very pleased with the performance so far, especially with the gain and directional behavior on 20 meters. The GAP antenna defect turned out to be caused by a resistive coating shorting a portion of the antenna circuits. The vendor was quick to provide a remedy.

K4MA has made final preparations and is looking for volunteers to help mix and pour concrete on Sunday for his 100 foot tower (N4CW, K4HA, AA4NC, KS4XG volunteered and all work was completed in a half day).

NT4D is putting up a 50 foot tower for a TA33. We'll be looking for the word to get over and help Jay finish recovering from Fran.

KS4XG got the final set of Rohn parts, a rotator and Gem Quad in hand and now it's a race to get the tower erected before the baby arrives (July 4th due date but June 21st is a full moon). Unfortunately the next two weekends are poor (Father's day and the W3LPL openhouse) but Pete will be sending out a request for help the moment final preparation is in sight and he's ready to erect the lower portion of the tower and pour concrete.

Next Meeting. The next PVRC/NC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 3rd, at the N4AF QTH in Apex. But, it will probably be changed to July 10 to avoid the July 4 week, when some folks might be on vacation. Burgers and refreshments will be provided. Please bring chairs. Since this meeting will be an outdoor cookout, 7/16 will be a rain date. Visit the PVRC/NC webpage at <http://www.pagesz.net> or PVRC/NC member to confirm the date!!!

NW REGIONAL MEETING MINUTES 17 JUNE 1997 by Tyler Steward, K3MM

In attendance were members: K3MM, K3SX (ex-K3SME), W3EKT, W3XE, WB3ECU, K3IXD, W8ZA, WD3A, AA3LE, AA3KY, N4ZR, and N5OKR.

Announcements. The July summer meeting will be held at the QTH of W4MYA. Date TBA. The August meeting will be the "Fowlfest" hosted by Marti, W3YOZ. In addition to the regular meeting in September, Dave, WR3L, will host an open house "end-of-summer" meeting.

Congratulations to all members who turned in scores for PVRC in the '96 SS and ARRL 160M contests! PVRC won the Unlimited Club category gavel in SS, taking out NCCC! In addition, we won the Medium Club category in the ARRL 160M contest! Sounds like we are back!

The PVRC On-The-Air Reunion sounded like a big success! At the top of the

heap was the omnipresent signal of Rich, K1HTV.

George (ex-W9VL) is now K3UT.

K3SX (ex-K3SME), Sid, operated 220 at the Grid Pirates new QTH in FM08 along with their new call, K8GP. He's putting up a new tower for a shunt fed vertical on 160.

W3EKT, Ed, has been back from Florida for a couple of weeks. He has his 21' RV setup for VHF Rover operation. He and K3IXD made 600Q's x 80 grids in the June VHF QSO Party. K3IXD ran 2 and Ed did the rest.

W3XE, Andy, made is first NW meeting! He's an avid CW County Hunter and was on for the recent CW County Hunters contest, running 18 counties in 3 states for 945 QSO's!

N4ZR, Pete, does all HF these days. He recently put up a 80M sloper array ala K3LR, and he reports it performs great!

AA3LE, Miller, operated the VHF contest with his daughter on a 6 meter long wire with surprising good results.

AA3KY, John, has 100 Watts into a Windom with a new FT1000MP. He's working on setting up a packet station.

WB3ECU, Rich, just got a new tower up.

K3IXD, Ed, went roving with W3EKT in the VHF contest. They had a lot of problems with noise from their DVK's.

W8ZA, Bob, has 90' of Rohn 45G going up (2nd tower) that will host monobanders for 10/15/20.

WD3A, Tom, has been working on his house. He recently took down a TV tower, relating some scary situations.

N5OKR, Greg, ...HE'S BACK! Due to personal circumstances, not to mention a new fiancee, he's decided to abandon those losers in CA and is moving back to Libertytown! Welcome back Greg! Meeting adjourned.

NW meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of every month at Legends Restaurant in the Hampton Inn located in south Frederick at the intersection of I270 and Rt 85. Dinner starts at 6 with a casual meeting at 8. 73, Tyler K3MM

RESULTS OF THE PVRC REUNION JUNE 1997.

The annual PVRC Reunion On-the-air was held the first full weekend of June, the 7th and 8th Eastern time. The real thrust is a social activity to renew contact with old friends. Of course, you can't hold back world class PVRC'ers as evidence of Rich's score. If your score is not listed please send it to K3DI to be listed in the annual issue Apr or May 98.

Call	QSO	Mult	Score	Place
K1HTV	217	19	8264	#1
K3DI	162	19	6156	#2
W3UJ	163	18	5868	#3

AA3LE	25	11	5509	#4	
W3PP	156	17	5340	#5	
VP2VI	135	17	4590		
K2UFT	125	18	4500		
W4HM	110	19	4180		
W6UM	109	18	3924		
K3ZO	100	19	3800		
K4VT	107	17	3638		
K3MM	100	18	3600		
N4AF	90	18	3240		
W3CP	92	17	3128		
N3NT	82	16	2624		
W4ZYT	75	17	2550		
W4YE	124	20	2480		
W0SS	86	14	2408		
W3HVQ	90	13	2340		
K4LDR	65	16	2080		
W5KL	74	14	2072		
W3AU	77	13	2002		
K3KY	59	15	1770		
N6RA	53	14	1484		
W4AGI	51	14	1428		
K4ZW	60	11	1320		
KE3Q	43	14	1204		
W6MVW	80	15	1200		
WB4FDT	57	10	1140		
W2RS	50	11	1100		
N4ZR	39	14	1092		
AA4NC	41	13	1066		
W3GRF	62	13	930		
N4CW	35	13	910		
K4RZ	35	13	910		
W7YS	40	11	880		
N3OC	33	13	858		
W3GG	33	12	792		
W2CS	26	14	728		
W4SD	24	15	720		
K3TM	32	10	640		
W3AZD	33	9	594		
ZP6CW	28	10	560		
W3ABC	25	11	550		
K6SG	41	12	492		
ND3F	20	12	480		
W4DM	23	9	414		
WD3P	19	10	380		
K3OSX	21	7	294		
K3TZV	12	9	108		
K4QQ	12	3	72		
K7SV	24	1	48		
WB3ECU	3	3	18		
W3UR	1	1	2		
Other active stations:					
W3KC	W3FZV	W3BP	N4QQ	N3AM	N2PP
K5RT	K4GKD	K4DL/7	K4AW	K3RV	KE5JA
DK5AD					

SOAPBOX:

First, thanks to W0SS and WB4FDT who sent a contribution with their Reunion score. There was a father and two sons (now sporting the OM's prior calls) participating in the Reunion.

W5KL ex W4YE & W4AGI(1930)
W4YE ex W4YZC
W4AGI ex K4CAX

I didn't expect to send in a score, just played around for one part of the reunion - WD3P. Please correct check sheet for me to indicate old call as W3DPJ - N6RA. My year should be 71 on checksheet - W2RS. Was good to hear the call W3GRF on the air again, along with W3AU and extraordinary signals here on the left coast from W3PP on all bands - W6UM. Beat my 1996 score of 51 16 1560 - W3AU. My first reunion - Lotsa old friends - Had a blast - W4ZYT. Pardon the penmanship; writing on a ferry boat to St. Thomas - VP2VI. I certainly enjoyed the Reunion - W3CP. Worked only 14247 kHz - W3AZD. Seemed to be more activity this year - WB4FDT. Delightful to work everyone, kinda eerie to hear W3GRF on the air again, but at the same time, very fitting! - K2UFT. Did a singleband (80m) effort - W2CS. Great to hear ZP6CW booming in all the way from 10 through 80! - K3ZO. Claim only one multiplier due to software crash - K7SV.

Only all band Q's were with W3AU and K4GKD (back scatter on 10 and 15) - Another fun weekend - K4VT. Great to work so many members of the #1 SS team in the USA - N4AF. Moved to new home in Beverly Hills FL in Feb - Better antennas next year - K4LDR. Thank all involved for another fun weekend with old and new friends - Not much time but did manage to work Rich, K1HTV, on all 7 bands! - K3OSX. IC-706 to Carolina Windom - Lotsa fun - N4CW. Great to hear Mike with the W3GRF call - W4YE. Had a great time and thanks to the News-letter via Email, I got the word - ZP6CW. Enjoyed saying Hello to some old friends - K6SG. Skip here to DC is very poor - N4AF. Only two hours and a low 20M dipole but it's a lot of fun working contestants from way back in my career - I was interested to see the new calls - Good job on the new membership - Lookout NCCC, FRC et al - W6MVW.

On a postcard report of his score: "Enjoyed hearing W3GRF call - we were good friends in the 40's. His fist has improved! Also, VP2VI surfaced from his island. We sked every Sun night 0300Z on 7030. I still have his QSL from what I think was the 1st postwar DXpedition - VP7NG. I went to his apt and worked him from his station so he could get DX credit for his own call in March of 1948. 73, Bill, W7YS, Charter member."

THE W3GRF CLUB CALL by Mike Cizek, KO7V

The PVRC club callsign, W3GRF in memory of Len Chertok, arrived in the mail a few days before the PVRC reunion, and made its inaugural appearance in the reunion. I was able to get on the air Saturday evening and work about 60 stations. KE3Q suggested that I use a bug on the air, since Lenny always did. I still have Len's old bug here, so I cleaned it up and used it for the reunion, (except for the times when I got all screwed up & had to resort to the electronic keyer!). Several contact turned into nice rag chews, with many of our "more senior" members saying how nice it was to hear W3GRF on the air again. A highlight for me was my first QSO with W3AU, one of the PVRC legends from before my time here.

The W3GRF callsign is available for club members to use in any contest or similar operating event. I ask that anyone interested in using it contact

me directly to coordinate its use.

THE FOUNDING OF A TOP CONTEST CLUB by Nort Richardson, W4KFT

Editor note: The following is quoted in its entirety from a letter from Nort dated 15 June.

Well today is Father's Day and, since I feel like one of the founding fathers of PVRC, and, in response to N3OC's request for club Newsletter material, I submit the following.

I was delighted to read in the Newsletter for June 1997 that the club had won the 1996 Sweepstakes Gavel! Which brings many thoughts to mind. the most important, I believe is that you will receive the gavel in the year which marks the 50th anniversary of the club's being. I would guess that many of the newer members of the club are unaware of it's humble beginning fifty years ago.

The club was originally organized as "The Arrora Hills Amateur Radio Club" because that was the name of the neighborhood in South Arlington, VA where I lived. The Charter members met in my living room to accomplish this. That was some time in the Spring of 1947. Sorry I don't have an exact date but it would have been right after QST announced the results of the 1946 Sweepstakes contest. Most of us had worked at the War Department Signal Center at the Pentagon during WWII as trick chiefs. We had all taken part in that contest, which was the first one after the hams were allowed back on the air. Problem was we, in fact the whole country, were all badly beaten by a guy named, "Vic Clark" W4KFC. So, with the thought in mind, "If you can't beat 'em, join em!" We invited Vic to attend that first organizational meeting.

From that small beginning the club grew and grew until such time as we decided it was time to acknowledge the members in MD and the DC area and changed the club's name to The Potomac Valley Radio Club. We were dedicated to the idea of winning all amateur radio contests and I can assure you that there were BIG smiles on all our faces when we finally beat The Frankfort Radio Club of Philadelphia in one of the early SS contests. We then went on to beat everyone in the DX and other contests. Funny thing is that I came from Philadelphia! My first call letters were W3GUV.

Even back then it was the custom for the ARRL to award a Gavel for winning the SS contest. Fact of the matter is that we started to win so many of the gavels that we got well on our way to being able to give every member a gavel! If you had the highest score, among those that had not already won a gavel, then you got the gavel for that year. I still have the gavel that was won by the club in 1950. It is in good shape and hope that it will eventually find it's way back to the club archives where it belongs.

I read the Newsletter every month and enjoy hearing about the good things that are happening to the club and it's members.

In conclusion let me say again, "Congratulations Guys. You are on the way back to where the club should be - at the TOP!" 73, Nort, W4KFT"

A LETTER FROM A. PROSE WALKER, W4BW

(As a result of tracking down his new address and resending the annual issue, Prose responded with a note on 5 June. His new address is 1978 Village Green #105, Tallahassee, FL 32308. Most of the note is quoted here. editor)

The aging process caught up to us, and we had to dispose of the old QTH, gear, and antennas. We are living in one of those so-called "personal care" retirement dives and there is little alternative to the situation.

I'm on the air here but barely, with my OMNI-VI and a 50' wire running up from ground level to a third floor window casing and fed through a TEE network with a tuned counterpoise under the antenna. I'm lucky to have this much of a station. I had a nice chat with K3ZO one night on 40m and have worked ZP6CW several times. To my knowledge they are the only PVRCers I've worked from here.

I can be on the air only at rare moments...my XYL, Ellanie, is the sad victim of Alzheimer's disease and I am her care-taker. I try to get on at night around 11 pm when I get her in bed and spend an hour or so usually on 40m at the frequency where there is a hole between local RFI.

Conditions are still stinko but they have to improve some day. My regards to all the club members. Sorry, no reunion this year. I'm the vintage of Vic Clark, Lenny Shertock, and Ron Collins...I think I joined PVRC back in about 1954. I'll be 88 in February. Take care and cheers.

----- end of PVRC july Newsletter -----